

Meeting Date:

4/25/06

AGENDA REPORT

Agenda Item #

SE

Santa Clara



City of Santa Clara, California



DATE: April 25, 2006

TO: City Manager for Council Information

FROM: City Clerk

SUBJECT: Updated Budget and Signature Gathering Information Regarding Potential Binding Arbitration Measure for November, 2006 Election

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Find below an update regarding the number of valid signatures necessary to qualify a charter amendment for the ballot, in addition to an updated budget estimate.

The Registrar of Voters has indicated that the number of voters in Santa Clara to be used for computing the number of signatures required to qualify a ballot initiative is 43,456 voters. The total number of signatures required to qualify a charter amendment initiative for the ballot is 6,519 registered voters.

Additionally, the City Attorney's Office has updated the previously provided information regarding the signature gathering requirements, now specific to the charter amendment process. Pursuant to section 9255 of the Elections Code, the petitioners will be required to submit signatures equal to 15% of the registered voters of the City of Santa Clara. This section is specific to charter amendment provisions and overrides any previously referenced signature requirements pertaining to the general initiative process.

Questions from April 11, 2006:

One of the questions referred to the City Clerk's Office should be updated as follows. For more information, see the budget information in this report:

- 1). If public safety unions obtain sufficient signatures to place binding arbitration on the November 2006 ballot, what would be the costs to the City?

Answer: A successful initiative process would approximately \$65,322 – \$95,417.

Budget:

The below outlined budget estimates cover three potential costs to the City of Santa Clara surrounding a potential initiative driven or council approved ballot measure. Please note, these costs do not include the consideration of staff time.

1). Signature Verification: If the circulators of the petitions do not submit the required 6,519 raw-count signatures, the petition fails and there is no cost to the City.

If adequate signatures are submitted, the 500 signature random sampling costs remain at \$2,500.

If a full count is required, the cost of signature verification would increase to approximately \$32,595. This number considers a \$4 per signature verification fee, an estimate that the petitioners would submit 25% above the number of required signatures (a total of 8148 signatures) and full signature verification.

2). Election Costs: Election costs would remain consistent at \$57,111.

3). Publishing and Translation Costs: This estimate remains consistent at an estimate of \$5,711.

Budget Review: For the sake of discussion, find below three possible budget scenarios:

Unsuccessful Initiative Process:

Signature Verification:	\$0 -- \$32,595
Election Costs:	\$0
<u>Pub and Translation:</u>	<u>\$0</u>
Total:	\$0 -- \$32,595

Successful Initiative Process:

Signature Verification:	\$2,500 -- \$32,595
Election Costs:	\$57,111
<u>Pub and Translation:</u>	<u>\$5,711</u>
Total:	\$65,322 -- \$95,417

Measure Placed by Council:

Election Costs:	\$57,111
<u>Pub and Translation:</u>	<u>\$5,711</u>
Total:	\$62,822

ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF ISSUE:

The advantages and disadvantages considered by the Clerk's Office relate to the election process and not to the policy issue of binding arbitration. There are no disadvantages to having the most up-to-date information to consider.

ECONOMIC/FISCAL IMPACT:

Estimated costs for a potential binding arbitration measure on the November, 2006 ballot for an unsuccessful initiative process are \$0 -- \$19,600, for a successful initiative process are \$65,322 -- \$95,417, and if the measure is placed on the ballot by the City Council are \$62,822.

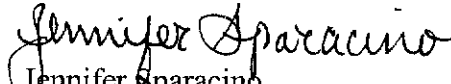
RECOMMENDATION:

This report pertains to a study session, there is no recommendation.

APPROVED:



Rod Diridon, Jr.,
City Clerk



Jennifer Sparacino,
City Manager